

Weapon of peace

# CIA importance stressed in speech

By JAMES RIPLEY

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The deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency spanned the globe in a briefing on world affairs given to Columbus Rotarians Monday, but he steered clear of the present controversy surrounding the spy agency.

Lt. Gen. Vernon A. Walters, speaking at the Neil House, told reporters it would be inappropriate for him to comment on governmental investigations into domestic spy operations by the CIA while its director, William Colby, is testifying on the matter.

HOWEVER, HIS remarks in praise of the agency seemed aimed at boosting the CIA's sagging public image.

In particular, he pointed to the agency's importance as the eyes through which the U.S. leaders view the operations of foreign governments.

Because of the CIA's monitoring capabilities, Walters explained, the United States has been able to make agreements with the Soviet Union, such as the recent one at Vladivostok which set a ceiling on the deployment of intercontinental ballistic missiles at 2,400 for each country.

THAT CAPABILITY also opens the door to future arms agreements, Walters said.

Calling the CIA a "weapon of peace," Walters warned against any congressional straitjacketing of the agency:

"The United States cannot stumble into the future completely blind. A blind giant is a pretty helpless guy."

NEVERTHELESS, the CIA deputy director predicted Congress would reorganize the agency and referred to an ancient Greek military strategist who said reorganization "creates the illusion of progress while producing confusion, inefficiency and demoralization."

Walters also seemed to be issuing a warning that the various investigatory committees should limit their probes of the CIA. He pointed out the agency depends on the assistance of "friendly foreign services."

That assistance could be withdrawn if they "get the feeling we are exposing their secrets," he said.

ALTHOUGH WALTERS' speech pointed to the importance of the CIA, it apparently was not part of a larger CIA public relations effort.

John T. Bonner Jr., an officer in the Rotary Club and Ohio State University vice president, said he invited Walters to speak before the group after he heard him give a similar address last May — months before the recent controversy.

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# Agent Says Peace Intelligence Aim

By Ray Lambert  
Of The Dispatch Staff

Gathering intelligence, which many people think is done only in war or to make war, is also done to make peace, the deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) told a joint meeting of the Downtown Rotary and Kiwanis clubs Monday.

U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Vernon A. Walters said only the power of being able to monitor has enabled the United States to enter arms reduction agreements.

MONITORING also will enable the U.S. to diminish the high cost of weapons systems, Walters said.

Walters said he has been with the CIA "a little under three years." It is clear, he said, that the CIA will be reorganized after it is investigated by various governmental committees.

"My feeling toward the CIA can be summed up in one word," he said. "Reassurance."

HE SAID HE is reassured by the caliber, confidence and continuity found in the



LT. GEN. VERNON  
WALTERS

CIA. Despite adverse publicity, he said, some 1,750 persons have applied for jobs with the agency in its most recent two-week reporting period.

Walters, who has spent nearly his entire military career in intelligence, was an aide to Gen. Mark Clark in Italy and to Secretary of State George Marshall at the ninth Pan American Conference in Columbia; and an assistant to President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

IN GIVING an assessment of the world situation, Walters said Europe is second in importance only to the U.S. Despite criticism that the North Atlantic Treaty Organization is ineffective, the destruction of NATO remains a primary objective of the Soviet Union, he said.

Walters also said the U.S. mission in the Pacific area is to promote stability. China has told U.S. allies not to push out the Americans yet, because the Red Chinese do not want a vacuum for the Soviets to move into.